

Thomas R. Cech et al.  
Application No.: 09/721,456  
Page 5

PATENT

REMARKS

With entry of this Preliminary Amendment, claims 1-20 have been canceled without prejudice, and new claims 21-58 have been added. Substitution of the new claims is made voluntarily by the owners of this invention, not for reasons of patentability, but to protect particular embodiments of current commercial interest. Applicants reserve the right to introduce claims to subject matter previously claimed or otherwise disclosed in the specification in this or any related application.

No new matter has been introduced by the new claims. Support for the new claims is replete in the subject specification and the specification of parent application serial no. 08/912,951 ("the '951 specification"), the disclosures of which have been incorporated by reference into the subject specification. For example, support for the recitation of method of drug screening or validation in claim 21 can be found in the '951 specification, at page 100, lines 3-30. Additional support for claim 21 is provided in the '951 specification, e.g., at page 7, lines 25-26; page 21, lines 14-26; page 22, lines 11-26; page 39, lines 21-28; page 40, line 19 to page 45, line 20; page 98, lines 6-23; page 114, 23-28; page 194, line 25 to page 195, line 19; and Figure 25. The '951 specification also provides support for the other claims, e.g., claim 22 (page 100, lines 27-30); claim 23 (page 60, line 27 to page 61, line 8; and page 100, lines 10-12); claims 24-25 (page 58, lines 14-22; and page 59, lines 16-30); claims 26-56 (Table 3 at pages 101-108); claim 57 (page 20, lines 2-20); and claim 58 (page 100, lines 14-17).

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400 x 5209.

Respectfully submitted,



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